

Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)



CDMSI(2014)Misc12

15/12/14

Proposal by the Bureau in respect of CDMSI drafting committees

1. The CDMSI agreed at its 7th meeting (18-21 November 2014) to create drafting committees on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership; gender equality dimension in the media coverage of election campaigns; professional and ethical journalism and hate speech; public service media and surveillance issues.
2. The CDMSI also agreed that the Bureau will make proposals regarding the scope of work, objectives and timetable of these drafting committees on the basis of information provided by the Secretariat until 15 January 2015. The CDMSI members were invited on 1 December 2014 to express their interest in joining the drafting committees.
3. Based on (i) Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods, (ii) the CDMSI Terms of Reference and (iii) the Deputies decision 1187th meeting, 11-12 December 2013, CM(2013)162) adopted further to the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society (Belgrade, 7-8 November 2013), the CDMSI agreed on the following:

Drafting committee on Media Pluralism and Transparency of Media Ownership

4. On the basis of CDMSI Terms of Reference, Expected Result iii/c and the Deputies Decision CM(2013)162 (paragraph 4/(iii) this drafting committee should:
 - examine the state of media concentration, transparency of media ownership and regulation and their impact on media pluralism and diversity, and consider the need for drawing up or updating related Council of Europe standards;
 - prepare a draft text on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership for approval by the CDMSI at its 9th meeting with a view to submitting it to the Committee of Ministers.

Relevant documents

PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media

Background Report: The Unbearable lightness of Media Ownership Transparency, Peggy Valcke (expert, professor of law at KU Leuven) 24 September 2014, [AS/Cult/Inf\(2014\)04](#)

Access Info Europe and the Open Society Media Program

[Ten recommendations on transparency of media ownership](#), 4 November 2013

Access Info [Presentation to the CDMSI](#), 25 April 2013

The [Transparency of Media Ownership in the European Union and Neighbouring States](#) – Report on a project by Access Info Europe and the Open Society Program on Independent Journalism, September 2014

Results of the Open Society Project Mapping Digital Media:

Digital Media in EU



OSF-MDM Overview
European Union.pdf

Digital Media in EU Enlargement Countries



OSF-MDM Overview
EU Enlargement Count

Public Media and Digitization: seven theses



OSF-MDM Overview
European Union.pdf

Drafting committee on gender equality dimension in the media coverage of election campaigns

5. On the basis of CDMSI Terms of Reference, Expected Result iii/d, this drafting committee should by the last meeting of the CDMSI:

- prepare a draft text on gender equality dimension in the media coverage of election campaigns (in consultation with the Council of Europe GEC and UN women) for

approval by the CDMSI at its 9th meeting with a view to submitting it to the Committee of Ministers.

Drafting committee on professional and ethical journalism and hate speech

6. On the basis of CDMSI Terms of Reference, Expected Result iii/b and noting in particular the Political Declaration adopted at the Belgrade Ministerial Conference (paragraph 8) and Resolution no.2 'Preserving the Essential Role of Media in the Digital Age' (paragraph 7):

- prepare a draft text on professional and ethical journalism for approval by the CDMSI at its 9th meeting with a view to submitting it to the Committee of Ministers.

Drafting committee on public service media

7. On the basis of the Deputies Decision (paragraph 4 (v) and noting in particular Resolution no.2 'Preserving the Essential Role of Media in the Digital Age' (paragraph 9):

- prepare a report, for consideration by the CDMSI at its 9th meeting, on questions relating to digital convergence, connected television and other new arrangements for the delivery of essential media content or information, and in this context examine the role of public service media and community media services.

Surveillance issues

8. On the basis of Deputies Decision (paragraph 4 (i) and noting in particular Resolution no 1 'Internet freedom' (paragraph 13 (v))

- prepare a report, for consideration by the CDMSI at its 9th meeting, on the question of gathering and processing of electronic communications data on individuals by security agencies, with a view, as appropriate to making proposals for further action. This work shall be carried out in the light of the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights and in consultation with other relevant Council of Europe intergovernmental and convention committees and other international organisations, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the CDMSI.

Composition

9. In accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 (Appendix, Article 14) these drafting committees will be composed of those members of the CDMSI who have expressed interest in joining these committees.

Working methods

10. The Council of Europe does not have resources to convene meetings of the drafting committees. The CDMSI members of drafting committees are nevertheless free to cover their own travel and subsistence expenses should it be agreed to hold meetings.

11. The drafting committees are expected to work between the CDMSI meetings making maximum use of information technologies and teleconferences in accordance with

Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 (Appendix Articles 2 and 14). In particular, the drafting committees may request to have recourse to consultants in line with Art. 14 c.

Article 2 – Documentation (emphasis added)

Documents requiring a decision, whether originating from the Secretariat or from a member, shall be sent, in the official languages (cf. Article 6 below), to members at least three weeks before the start of the meeting at which the decision is to be taken. In exceptional cases, however, the committee may, if no member objects, consider a document submitted later. **Maximum use should be made of information technology, including gathering together amendments and proposals, finalising texts and publishing decisions, provided in the latter cases that all the members of the committee have been properly informed in good time.**

Article 14 – Working methods (emphasis added)

a. Committees may appoint a rapporteur, a drafting committee or both.

b. Where necessary, in order to expedite the progress of their work, committees may entrust a rapporteur or a limited number of committee members with a specific task to be fulfilled by their next meeting, using primarily information technologies.

c. In exceptional cases, for specialised tasks that cannot be performed by a member of the committee or the Secretariat, committees may request the Secretary General to have recourse to consultants subject to the provisions of the relevant resolution and within the limits of budgetary appropriations.

d. Time- and cost-efficiency shall be a guiding principle for committee work, including best possible use of interactive technologies for networks and meetings.

e. Agenda items for information only shall be communicated to members in advance by electronic means allowing the committee to focus during its meeting on agenda items for decision.